

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/SPS/N/SVK/14
31 March 1999

(99-1314)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Slovak Ministry of Agriculture/State Veterinary Administration
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Slaughter animals and related products, in relation to chemical growth simulators and feed antibiotics (namely carbadox, olaquinox, Zn-bacitracine, virginiamycine, spiramycine, tylozine-phosphate)
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Decree of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture of 7 October 1997, No. 1497/3/1997-100 establishing the requirements for introducing supplementary substances, their composition, testing and evaluation, and specific requirements for biological verification of feedstuffs.
5.	Description of content: Modified veterinary conditions do not allow imports to the Slovak Republic concerning slaughter animals, namely cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and poultry destined for immediate slaughter, meat and meat products thereof if they were not thermally treated. Only in cases, when the veterinary authority in the country of origin of the animals and products thereof guarantees fulfilling the requirements stated in the model veterinary form for import to the Slovak Republic, the imports are allowed without limitation.
6.	Objective and rationale: Above-mentioned chemical growth stimulators and feed antibiotics were neither registered nor used in the Slovak Republic. Therefore they were not specified in the Decree of the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture No. 1497/3/1997-100 – Register of supplementary substances for feeding animals, Part A – feed antibiotics and Part J – growth stimulators. This Register does not permit use and introduction into circulation of the substances which are not indicated there. Therefore the Slovak Republic modified the conditions for imports of slaughter animals, their meat and animal products which were not thermally treated and which are produced from animals that obtained the above-mentioned substances in their feeding. This modification has been introduced by the Slovak State Veterinary Administration on the basis of expert and scientific justification of the quoted Commission Regulation No. 2788/98 dated 22 December 1998 stating that the use of mentioned additives represents a danger for human health, animal health and the environment. A scientific committee for animal nutrition stated that usage of carbadox and olaquinox poses a risk for consumers, the staff or the animals themselves. They admit carbadox as being genotoxic and carcinogenic for rodents, and olaquinox as being genotoxic and tumorigenic.

	<p>The Committee stated that it is not possible to determine the threshold level for genotoxic additives, which would represent zero risk for the consumer, as already a small amount of residues of the above-mentioned additives may evoke a mutation causing a tumour. Commission Regulation No. 2821/98 dated 17 December 1998 is based on a scientific justification concerning the ban to use the additives in feedstuffs belonging to the group of antibiotics proposed by Sweden (2 February 1998), Finland (12 March 1997) and Denmark (15 January 1998), respectively. The Commission held consultations concerning the mentioned proposals with the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition, which expressed the expert opinion of being concerned with the acquired resistance to vancomycine among enterococci and Staphylococcus Aureus strains resistant to metylcine, which are more and more responsible for nosomial infections, mainly in the United States and Southern Europe. It may become inevitable to use streptogramins as a therapeutic agent for the ultimate possibility to eliminate the pathogenic agents which have developed resistance against other antibiotics.</p>
7.	<p>An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist []. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations: Commission Regulation No. 2788/98/EC dated 22.12.1998 Commission Regulation No. 2821/98/EC dated 17.12.1998</p>
8.	<p>Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: Law on Feedstuffs No. 184/1993 Z.z. (para. 3) Law on Veterinary Care No. 337/1998 Z.z (para. 8/3/b and para. 8/4/a)</p>
9.	<p>Proposed date of adoption:</p>
10.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: 5 March 1999</p>
11.	<p>Final date for comments: Agency or authority designated to handle comments: State Veterinary Administration of the Slovak Republic, Botanicka 17, 842 13 Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Fax: +421 7 65420745)</p>
12.	<p>Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body:</p>